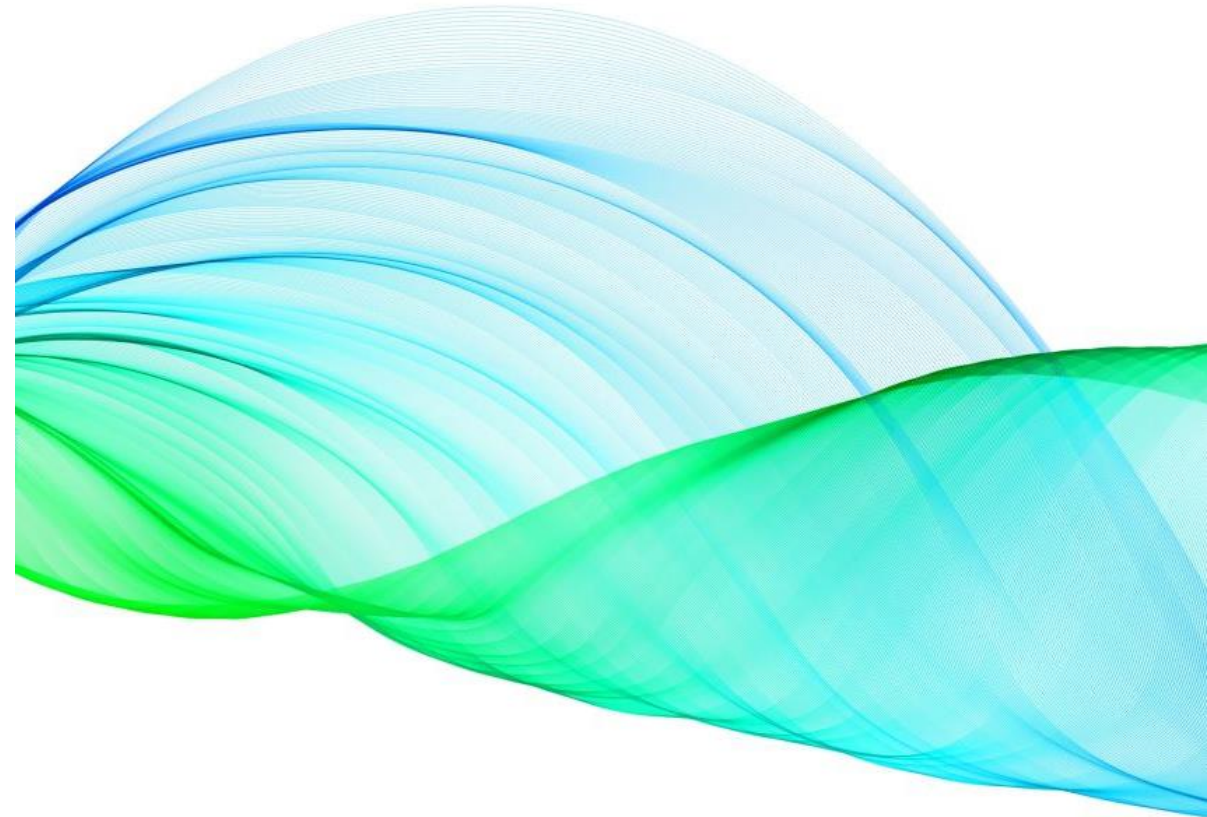

COVID-19 SPENDING

CARES Act/FEMA



CARES ACT/FEMA

- On March 13, 2020, President Trump declared a National Emergency in response to the growing COVID-19 pandemic
 - The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) was directed to help take protective measures necessary to protect public health under the Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act
 - This made states and ultimately municipalities eligible for economic relief related to public health
-

FEMA

- Some of the areas covered under the FEMA program are:
 - Emergency Operations Center costs
 - Specific disaster related training
 - Disinfection of *eligible* public facilities
 - Related medical facility services and supplies
 - Temporary medical facilities, and emergency medical transport
 - Certain sheltering activities
 - Reimbursement for related overtime cost to municipalities
 - Other, mostly non-related to Maynard
-

FEMA

- The FEMA program is designed to cover only 75% of the costs incurred (CARES can cover the balances)
- FEMA has determined that “certain” public buildings mean buildings housing first responders so fire and police stations only

FEMA

- What we have done here in Maynard:
 - Once public buildings other than public safety (fire, police, and communication) were shut down, buildings were cleaned and sanitized
 - We worked with the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) to secure personal protective equipment (PPE) for first responders
 - Purchased hand-sanitizing, sterilizing and disinfecting supplies
 - Purchased or rented equipment necessary to conduct an outdoor annual town meeting, and special town meeting
 - Backfilled for exposed or infected first responders
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CARES ACT OVERVIEW

- In June of 2020 CARES Act funding was made available through the Commonwealth of Massachusetts
 - Communities were allotted funds on a per-capita basis, Maynard was eligible for \$940,485
 - The CARES Act CvRF provides resources for municipalities to address unexpected costs associated with the COVID-19 pandemic. The Fund is subject to at least three major conditions. These include:
 - “Necessary expenditures incurred due to the public health emergency with respect to ... COVID-19”
 - Funds may not be used to substitute for lost revenue
 - Expenses must be unbudgeted as of March 27, 2020
 - May not supplant state or municipal spending
 - Expenses must be incurred between March 1, 2020 and December 30, 2020
-

CARES ACT

- General areas for permissible CARES Act funding uses:
 - First responder costs, including:
 - Direct staffing costs – Overtime, additional hires, and/or backfilling staff who test positive
 - Quarantine/isolation costs for first responders who may be infected and should not put household members at risk – or who should be kept apart from potentially infected household members
 - Including hotel/motel space, sanitization of first responder vehicles, etc.
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CARES ACT

- Permissible uses continued:
 - Temporary staff to backfill sick or quarantined municipal employees including:
 - City/town management
 - Phone/administrative support
 - Janitorial
 - Police, fire, EMT
 - Trash collection
 - Other



CARES ACT

- Permissible uses continued:
 - Staff for compliance and reporting associated with this funding
 - Accelerated telework capacity – infrastructure, subscriptions for meeting services, hardware (laptops)*
 - Hiring and training, including training for employees and contractors, hired for COVID-19 response
 - PPE, including first responders, grocery store employees, gas station attendants and others who interact with the public
 - Sanitation and Refuse Collection*
 - Food inspection
-

CARES ACT

- Permissible uses continued:
 - Cleaning/disinfection of public buildings
 - Municipal buildings, including fire stations
 - Public housing
 - Specialized cleaning equipment
 - Air filtration / HVAC
 - School distance learning, to the extent not funded from other sources, including
 - Planning and development, including IT costs*
 - Incremental costs of special education services required under individual education plans (IEPs) in a remote, distance, or alternative location*
 - Food for families that rely on food through the school system
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FEMA FUNDING STATUS

- We are still awaiting a final approval of funds requested from FEMA.
- As of now we anticipate about \$38,000 worth of reimbursement from the two requests we have made

CARES ACT FUNDING STATUS

- The CARES Act is an application-based system where communities put in for a draw based on **anticipated** needs
 - Our first draw request was for \$626,000 and resulted in \$348,500 being sent to Maynard
 - Our second request was for \$435,000 and resulted in \$337,500 being sent to Maynard
 - To date we have received \$686,000 in CARES Act money
 - The discrepancy in the request to the actual awards is based on what the application deems “may” be FEMA eligible, or is ineligible for funding
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LOCAL PROCESS

- The Fire Chief has overseen the CARES and FEMA reimbursement process
 - The finance department has created a specific COVID account to process invoices
 - All town departments were sent a memo on July 13, 2020 outlining the spending process
 - Most invoices were processed through the Fire Chief
 - All invoices have been accounted for, processed and reconciled
 - Communication between the Fire Chief, the School Business Manager, and municipal department heads has been ongoing, and has overall been smooth
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WHAT WE HAVE SPENT

- The costs we have incurred are in multiple categories such as information technology (IT) for remote working or learning, cleaning or disinfecting supplies, protective barriers, rental equipment for the ATM, and the STM, PPE for all town and school employees, backfilling costs, testing costs, mortgage assistance program, and other smaller categories

WHERE WE HAVE SPENT MONEY

- The easiest breakdown is by department, I have broken down the departments on the municipal, and school sides as follows:
 - Department of Public Works/Facilities
 - Fire
 - Police
 - Library
 - Town Hall
 - Council on Aging
 - Town (PPE)
 - Schools
-

WHERE WE HAVE SPENT MONEY

- Spending
 - Department of Public Works/Facilities \$43,000.35
 - Fire \$7,928.15
 - Police \$15,023.31
 - Library \$3,287.91
 - Town Hall \$54,538.82
 - Council on Aging \$2,470.00
 - Town (PPE/Testing) \$56,308.53
 - Schools \$368,209.93 + \$57,149.36 in outstanding PO

SPENDING TOTALS

- Totals to date:
 - Spent: \$607,946.29
 - FEMA projected \$38,000.00
 - Anticipated CARES commitment \$569,946.29

CHALLENGES

- Lack of clarity from both FEMA and CARES Act administrators on what is covered, particularly at the outset of the emergency declaration
 - Ensuring all invoices go through the Fire Chief
 - Misunderstanding as to how CARES can be spent
 - Filing paperwork with both FEMA and the state's Division of Local Services (DLS) for CARES spending
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MOVING FORWARD

- We are still incurring costs that we have not yet added to our totals.
 - We are anticipating costs moving forward for Vaccination Clinics (age 75+, school and other employees), future mortgage assistance payouts, school costs for School Nurse, and costs associated with special education
 - Our next reporting date for CARES spending is February 27th
 - We have been in contact with FEMA and anticipate a final determination on our reimbursement total soon
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SUMMARY

- To date all spending and payouts reconcile
- We are still incurring costs
- The Fire Chief will continue working with other municipal departments and the schools to meet their covered needs